



Founded: August 13, 1939

January 2009

Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society's RADIOGRAM

Coming Events

OARS GENERAL MEETING

January 9, 7:00 p.m., at Oroville Adult Education Building, Grand Avenue, behind the 7-11 store.

GEARS GENERAL MEETING

Friday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Butte County Search & Rescue Building-2591 Morrow Lane, Chico

BUTTE / GLENN ARES MEETING

January 23, at Butte County Search and Rescue Building

OARS HAM CRAM COURSE

January 31 and February 1. See related article this newsletter

FCC EXAMS - GEARS VEC

Sunday, February 1st, 2009 at the Butte County Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue (corner of 1st Avenue and Sherman). Written test at 2:00 p.m. For information or pre-registration call Gene WA6ZRT, (530) 345-3515.

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Picture courtesy EVARC

OFFICERS ELECTED TO SERVE DURING 2009

President: Randall Stone K6RCS

Vice President: James Hilton K1GKNKZ

Secretary: Krista Gallwitz K6KEG

Treasure: Lester Mikeworth KI6KUO

Past President: Ray Watkins KO6TW

Board Members:

John Post AG7J

Gene Wright WA6ZRT

Evelyn Weir K6QXC

EVELYN WEIR - K6QXC- VOTED GEARS HAM OF THE YEAR



President Randall Stone Presenting Plaque for Ham of the Year to Evelyn Weir

A well deserved honor. Is there any event at which Evelyn is not there, volunteering wherever needed, always giving an extra measure?

K60XC Evelyn Weir - continued

Evelyn has been an amateur radio operator and member of GEARS since 1991. She advanced to Extra Class in April 2002. Evelyn assists with the VEC testing for new licenses and upgrades; has served in several roles for GEARS i.e. past Secretary; Board of Directors; heading up numerous committees; conducts raffles, just to name a few things.

Evelyn is a licensed L.V.N. (retired with 30 years of service), has an active record of volunteerism with the Shriners Children clinics, and not least, as a mother and grandmother, she is deeply involved in family activities.

Evelyn says: *"I enjoy being a member of GEARS; the people are friendly, cheerful and always ready to be an elmer if you are having radio or antenna problems. I enjoy helping Gene WA6ZRT with the VEC testing for new licenses and upgrades."*

I want to thank everyone who voted me for Member of the Year."

And, GEARS thanks you, K6QXC.

**OARS – Oroville Amateur Radio Society
To offer License Preparation "Ham
Cram" January 31st and February 1st.**

The classes to be held at the Oroville Adult Education Building, 78 Table Mountain Blvd, in Oroville, will consist of approximately eight (8) hours of study on January 31, which will cover all possible question in the exam.

The February 1st session will consist of actual practice exams.

The proctored examination session will be at 2:00 p.m. on February 1st in the County Library at 1st and Sherman in Chico.

Students should prepare for the "cram" by rading "The Ham License Manual" by ARRL or the Gorden West Manual.

There is no charge for the class. The exam on February 1st is \$6.50. Books are available from Bill Cross whose contact is k6dyt@arrrl.net or 530-533-9342.

So far everyone that has taken the "cram" has passed the exam! ☺

The above information submitted by K6DYT Bill Cross, OARS.

**VEC COORDINATORS – VOLUNTEER
EXAMINER COORDINATORS FOR GEARS**

The GEARS VEC Committee is a group of volunteer examiners who are authorized by the FCC to provide examinations for amateur radio licenses. The exams are given on the 1st Sundays of February, April, June, August, October and December. The test sessions are held at the Butte County Library in Chico at the corner of E. 1st Ave., and Sherman. The cost of the exam is \$6.50. You can take more than one exam for the same cost. The exam sessions start at 2:00 p.m.

**CANDIDATES SHOULD BRING THESE
ITEMS TO THE SESSION.**

Two forms of identification. One MUST be a recognizable photo, current driver's license, state ID card, school ID, passport, etc.

Please bring a current copy of your ham license if you have one.

If applicable, an unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. These certificates are valid for one year from date of issue.

You may bring a calculator, however, memories must be cleared before the exam starts.



RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 7TH VEC TESTING

Tracy Pitts	Technician	KI6UQD
Robert Bernard	Technician	KI6UQE
Gene Lazard	Technician	KI6UQF

Upgrades

Gary McElroy	General	N6BLU
Robert Huber	General	K6PWR
John Lathe	Extra	KI6LZZ
James Bennett	Extra	W6JSB

GEARS VEC Gene Wright, WA6ZRT
530-345-3515 wa6zrt@sbcglobal.net

The above article courtesy of GEARS W6RHC
Webmaster Stephen McDermott W6AKF

2008 – A VERY BUSY YEAR

GEARS members experienced a myriad of service opportunities during 2008. Chief among the many service actions were during the fire season when Butte County was one of those overwhelmed by forest fires. Amateur Radio operators acted as information relay assistants for the Red Cross and other emergency volunteers. GEARS, ARES and OARS members manned shelters, and provided 24 hour radio contact services during several fires in varying locations. ARES members also participated in fire damage assessments, again working with the Red Cross.



Red Cross Worker & N6NPN – Steve Kaps



Members assisted with the annual Chico VELO Cycling Club Wildflower ride. N6NPN-Steve Kaps served as coordinator of GEARS members efforts.



The 520 Net group held their first meet and greet luncheon in 2008. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed putting a Ham face to the operators with whom they so often exchange information.

Fires caused cancellation of annual Field Day, however, the annual Campout at Methodist Church Campgrounds near Mineral was a companionable and instructive session for all.



K6RCS Randall Stone gives presentation

The September annual Steak Bake : Good food, Fun for all who participated in the Fox Hunt: Sadly, attendance was sparse.



The December meeting for Election of Officers for the coming year is combined with an annual Christmas Dinner and gift drawing. This is a much enjoyed and convivial December event.



A significant number of GEARS/ARES members responded to Butte County Sheriff's Communication Reserve representative, Mike Kaliczak's (N6NIX), request for GEARS and ARES Hams obtain a Disaster Service Worker card to facilitate participation in disaster communications efforts with BCSCR in the event of Regional disasters.

Many additional activities occur throughout the year. For Example: Members own and maintain the two Repeaters located at Forest Ranch; all new members receive an opportunity to use the phone patch on the repeater. Members assist Ham operators with antenna or radio problems; act as "elmers" for ham wannabees; We respond to requests from various community organizations (such as at Chico Air Fest) to speak about Ham Radio or be present to display Ham Radios, materials and to demonstrate amateur radio capabilities. The list is very long.

FUTURE EVENTS OF INTEREST:

QUARTZFEST: January 18, through January 24, an annual gathering of Amateur Radio Operators near Quartzite, Arizona. The campsite is on BLM land; 14 days free camping, but no amenities, so tents, R.V. trailers or motor homes are the order of the week.

Seminars and presentations are offered; to name a few: Winlink 2000 changes and updates; AMSAT; Amateur Tv: Radio controlled airplanes, radio controlled trains, and much more.

For full information go to:
<http://www.quartzfest.org>
(☺)

Other websites of interest:

A website for QRP enthusiasts: QRPedia.
<http://www.qrpedia.com/>

<http://W2lj.blogspot.com> – QRP, Morse Code and Amateur Radio

COMMENTS CORNER

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN ELMER

The GEARS Newsletter Staff:

Editor and Publisher	Dorothy Post	Associate
Printing	Suzanne Jessen	KG6IZM
Distribution	Suzanne Jessen	KG6IZM
Website	Stephen McDermott	W6AKF

The Radiator is a monthly publication of the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS). It is the policy of the Editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio, of interest to GEARS members, and space is available.

Please send all submissions to the Editor – Dorothy Post by the last day of the month through one of the following mediums:

Home: P O Box 786 (530) 865-0260 direct
Orland, CA, 95963 (530) 228-3881 cell

Email: " dj@posthouse.us (indicate GEARS in subject line)

Club Officers: (Board of Directors)

President	Randall Stone	K6RCS
Vice President	James Hilton	KI6KNZ
Secretary	Krista Gallwitz	K6KEG
Treasurer	Lester Mikeworth	KG6KUO
Past President	Ray Watkins	KO6TW
Director	Gene Wright	WA6ZRT
Director	John Post	AG7J
Director	Evelyn Weir	K6QXC

Club Meetings

General Meeting	Third Friday	6:30 PM
Board Meeting	Third Friday	9:00 PM

Club Net

Tuesdays	8:00 PM	146.850 MHz
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Sacramento Valley Traffic Net

Nightly	9:00 PM	146.850 MHz
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ARES Net

Butte Glenn	Mondays 8:00 PM	146.850 MHz
Yuba Sutter	Thursdays 7:00 PM	146.085 MHz
Meetings	Fourth Friday	7:00 PM

Other Nets

Sac Valley	7:00 PM	2 nd Wed of the month	146.085 MHz
Section Net			
F440	Wed. 8:00 PM	Wednesday	440.650 MHz
Night			
520 Simplex	8:00 PM	Thursdays	146.520 MHz
Golden Bear	7:00 PM	Daily	3975 kHz
Willie Net	8:00 PM	Mondays	1930 kHz

Western Public Service System (WPSS)

Winter	5:00 ó 7:30 PM	3952 kHz
Summer	6:00 ó 8:30 PM	3952 kHz

ARISS (International Space Station)

Uplink	144.490 MHz	Downlink	145.800 MHz
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Randall received a great e mail this week from a highly interesting individual asking “Where’s Elmer?”

He said to “please accept the Email as a request for me to gain greater access to the intriguing world of Ham Radio with the benefit of an Elmer”

Randall immediately referred his request to several members. His email, however, reminded me that if we are to foster new members, we must work at reaching out as “Elmer’s” to help interested individuals transition into the world of Ham Radio.

Are we doing enough?

AG7J

John Post

From your Radiator Editor:

A special thank you to: John Hunt ó K7XE
Bill Cross - K6DYT; Stephen McDermott - W6AKF;
Evelyn Weir ó K6QXC; John Post ó AG7J;
Arlene Clendon ó KG6UPW
Randall Stone ó K6RCS and
Krista Gallwitz ó K6KEG for their help through
providing information and photos for this Newsletter.

Dj

**MINUTES
GEARS MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2008**

The GEARS general meeting began at 7:30 pm

Treasurer's Report: GEARS has a balance of \$2,724.32. There is a total of \$104 in cash; there were \$442.47 in expenditures and \$80 in deposits. Gene made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Evelyn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Minutes: Evelyn made a motion to approve November's meeting minutes. Joann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

VEC Report: A total of eight people participated in GEAR's last test session, seven people advanced.

Repeater Doors: The repeater finally has new doors! A big thank you to Lester, Ray and Dick for all their hard work!

Elections:

The outcome of the elections is as follows:

Randall Stone, President
James Hilton, Vice President
Krista Gallwitz, Secretary
Lester Mikeworth, Treasurer
Evelyn Weir, Board Member
John Post, Board Member
Gene Wright, Board Member

Adjournment: Evelyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Gene seconded the motion and the motion carried. GEARS December meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
12-19-08**

Membership: Gene made a motion to approve the following membership applications:

Bill and Muriel Pope
Bruce Harrick
Ken Couch
Ed and Pat Everett

Evelyn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjournment: Evelyn made a motion to adjourn the GEARS Board meeting; Gene seconded the motion and the motion carried. The GEARS December Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Friday January 9	7:00 PM	Oroville Amateur Radio Society General Meeting	Oroville Adult Education Building, 78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville	John Hunt K7XE@arrrl.net 530-589-4734
Sunday January 18 through – Saturday January 24		QUARTZFEST Ham Radio Campout	Quartzsite, Arizona BLM location	organizer@quartzfest.org
Friday January 16	6:30 PM.	GEARS General Meeting	Butte Co. Search and Rescue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Randall Stone K6RCS 530-521-1318-
January 23	7:00 p.m.	ARES	Butte County Search and Rescue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Steve Kaps N6NPN (530) 345-7142
January 31 st February 1 st See associated Article	8:00A.M. (time may be changed)	OARS HAM CRAM LICENSE PREPARATION CLASSES	Oroville Adult Education Building 78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville	Bill Cross K6DYT 530-533-9342 k6dyt@arrrl.net
*Sunday February 1 st	2:00	FCC testing for licenses	Butte County Library, Chico (see coming events section above)	Gene Wright WA6ZRT 530-345-3515
Wednesday February 4th		The Radiator Submission Deadline For articles to publish	Dorothy Post, P O Box 786, Orland, 95963 email dj@posthouse.us	Dorothy Post (530) 865 0260

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